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PATENT**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Following are the current claims. For the claims that have not been marked as amended in this response, any differences in the claims below and the current state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error:

1. (Original) A method for constituting an integrated enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities, comprising the steps of:

extracting a plurality of local taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise community models;

correlating from each of said plurality of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations for generating a correlated topics and associations set relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies;

deriving a plurality of synonym links for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and associations set;

integrating said plurality of synonym links and said correlated topics and associations set into an integrated enterprise taxonomy; and

exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of determining internal consistency within each of said plurality of local taxonomies.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

forming said correlated topics and associations set as a metamodel system; and

constituting said set of topics and associations to be correlated as relationships within said metamodel system.

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4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said exporting step further comprises the step of exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system as a plurality of comma-separated-value files comprising said synonym links and said correlated topics and association set.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
forming said correlated topics and associations set as a hierarchical tree structure within a metamodel system; and
forming said set of topics as node objects within said hierarchical tree structure; and
forming said set of associations as relationships between said node objects within said hierarchical tree structure.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming with said synonym links a canonical synonym link structure associated with a canonical synonym from among said synonyms, said canonical synonym link structure for associating non-canonical synonyms with said canonical synonym, said canonical synonym possessing a higher order than other ones of said synonyms.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of associating said integrated enterprise taxonomy with a plurality of enterprise documents associated with said intellectual capital management system.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a metamodel system associated with said intellectual capital management system.

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9. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a database associated with said intellectual capital management system.

10. (Original) A system for constituting an integrated enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities, comprising:

instructions for extracting a plurality of local taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise communities;

instructions for correlating from each of said plurality of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations for generating a correlated topics and associations set relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies; instructions for deriving a plurality of synonym links for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and associations set;

instructions for integrating said plurality of synonym links and said correlated topics and associations set into an integrated enterprise taxonomy; and

instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for determining internal consistency within each of said plurality of local taxonomies.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising:

instructions for forming said correlated topics and associations set as a metamodel system; and

instructions for constituting said set of topics and associations to be correlated as relationships within said metamodel system.

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13. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said exporting instruction further comprise instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system as a plurality of comma-separated-value files comprising said synonym links and said correlated topics and association set.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising:

instructions for forming said correlated topics and associations set as a hierarchical tree structure within a metamodel system; and

instructions for forming said set of topics as node objects within said hierarchical tree structure; and

instructions for forming said set of associations as relationships between said node objects within said hierarchical tree structure.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for forming with said synonym links a canonical synonym link structure associated with a canonical synonym from among said synonyms, said canonical synonym link structure for associating non-canonical synonyms with said canonical synonym, said canonical synonym possessing a higher order than other ones of said synonyms.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for associating said integrated enterprise taxonomy with a plurality of enterprise documents associated with said intellectual capital management system.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a metamodel system associated with said intellectual capital management system.

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18. (Original) The system of Claim 10, further comprising instructions for forming said integrated enterprise taxonomy as a database associated with said intellectual capital management system.

19. (Original) A storage medium for constituting an integrated enterprise taxonomy for an intellectual capital management system serving a plurality of local enterprise communities, said storage medium comprising:

instructions for extracting a plurality of local taxonomies from the plurality of local enterprise communities;

instructions for correlating from each of said plurality of local taxonomies a set of topics and a set of associations for generating a correlated topics and associations set relating to each of said plurality of local taxonomies;

instructions for deriving a plurality of synonym links for linking synonyms within said correlated topics and associations set;

instructions for integrating said plurality of synonym links and said correlated topics and associations set into an integrated enterprise taxonomy; and

instructions for exporting said integrated enterprise taxonomy into said intellectual capital management system.

20. (Original) The storage medium of Claim 19, further comprising:

instructions for forming said correlated topics and associations set as a hierarchical tree structure within a metamodel system; and

instructions for forming said set of topics as node objects within said hierarchical tree structure; and

instructions for forming said set of associations as relationships between said node objects within said hierarchical tree structure.